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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/163,844	09/30/1998	CHRISTOPHER A. HOFMEISTER	390-008105-U	5953

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PERMAN & GREEN
425 POST ROAD
FAIRFIELD, CT 06430

EXAMINER

UNDERWOOD, DONALD W

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3652

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Application No.: 09/163,844
Art Unit: 3652

The reply brief filed 02/19/03 has been entered and considered. The application has been forwarded to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences for decision on the appeal.

Applicant's remarks regarding claim 28 are correct in that claim 28 should have been included in the rejection based on Fukasawa et al in view of Bacchi et al. and not in the rejections utilizing Bacchi et al and Ohata et al. That is, claims 1-4, 26, 28 and 29 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being patentable over Fukasawa et al in view of Bacchi et al and claims 8-16 stand rejected over Ohata et al in view of Bacchi et al or vice versa. Thus the examiner's answer contained an inadvertent typographical error.

Regarding applicant's position that the examiner has not addressed claim 28 with respect to the rejection based on Fukasawa, Bacchi and Sawada, it is noted that Sawada was not part of the rejection. As for Fukasawa and Bacchi, the rejection set forth a substitution of equivalent structures, i.e., the substitution of the arm in Bacchi for the arm in Fukasawa. Fukasawa teaches moving the wafer along parallel lines on opposite sides of the arm base. Note figure 2 in Fukasawa wherein the arm moves wafers into and out of 4a, 3a on one side of the arm base and 4b and 3b on another side of the base. Also note Bacchi shows straightline movement in figure 6A, i.e., a straightline path through 168h and a straightline through 168r.

Underwood/kl
March 7, 2003

Donald W. Underwood c3/24/03
DONALD W. UNDERWOOD
PRIMARY EXAMINER